CLAIMS

1. A method for automatically calibrating a scanner, comprising the steps of:

affixing a calibration target to a scanning surface of said scanner; and

calibrating said scanner with said calibration target during a normal scan.

2. A method as in Claim 1, wherein said scanner comprises a platen; and wherein said calibration target comprises a width of approximately or equal to a length of or a width of said platen.

3. A method as in Claim 1, wherein said calibration target is a Kodak® Gray Strip, an IT8™ target, or an equivalent manufactured calibration target.

4. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the calibration target comprises a photograph on photographic paper.

5. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the calibration target strip comprises a dye sublimation print on photographic paper or paper equivalent to photographic.

6. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the calibration target comprises:
a plastic material, said plastic material having an adhering surface and a covering over said adhering surface such that the adhering surface allows the plastic material to adhere to a part of the scanner when the covering is removed from the adhering surface.

7. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the calibration target comprises:

a dye sublimation print onto a plastic material, said plastic material having an adhering surface and a covering over said adhering surface such that said adhering surface allows said dye sublimated plastic material to adhere to a part of said scanner when said covering is removed from said adhering surface.

8. A method as in Claim 1, further comprising the step of :

providing a calibration target having a protective coating.

9. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the calibration target comprises decal paper.

10. A method as in Claim 1, wherein the scanner further comprises a plastic non-reflective sleeve located proximate to a scanning surface for fixedly holding said calibration target in said sleeve.

11. An apparatus for automatically calibrating a scanner, comprising:

a calibration target;

means for attaching said calibration target proximate to a scanning surface of said scanner; and

means for automatically calibrating said scanner with said calibration target during a normal scan.

12. An apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein the scanner further comprises;

a platen; and

wherein said calibration target comprises a width approximately equal to a length of or a width of said platen.

13. An apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein the calibration target is a Kodak® Gray Strip, an IT8™ target, or an equivalent manufactured calibration target.

14. An apparatus of Claim 11, wherein calibration target comprises a photograph on photographic paper.

15. An apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the calibration target comprises a dye sublimation print on photograph paper or paper equivilent to photographic paper.

16. An apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein the calibration target strip comprises a plastic material, said plastic material having an adhering surface and a covering over said adhering surface such that said adhering surface allows said plastic material adhere to a part of said scanner when said covering is removed from said adhering surface.

17. A calibration target strip in Claim 11, wherein said calibration target has a protective coating.

18. A calibration target strip in Claim 11, wherein said calibration target comprises decal paper.

19. An apparatus as in Claim 11, wherein said scanner has a plastic non-reflective sleeve located proximate to said scanning surface for holding said calibrated target thereto.

20. A method for calibrating a printer using a scanner, comprising the steps of:

attaching a calibration target strip to said scanner;

printing calibration target;

placing said printed calibration target on said scanner;

scanning said printed calibration target on said scanner; and

calibrating said printer using said scanned printed calibration target.